

Variety Of Treasures Found At California Nurse Leaders Conference

By Laura Goldbaum, RN, MS, FNP

[NurseWeek](#): “The social compact has unraveled,” Lt. Governor John Garamendi said Feb. 9 in Monterey, Calif.

Garamendi, the keynote speaker at the Association of California Nurse Leaders' (ACNL) 31st annual conference held Feb. 8-11, said 6 million to 7 million Americans don't have healthcare coverage, and proposed lowering the age of Medicare eligibility from 65 to 0. This cradle-to-the-grave universal healthcare system would partially be paid for by eliminating the heavy administrative costs of the current system, he added.

Garamendi's talk was part of a broad range at the conference, “Exploring the Treasures of Nurse Leadership,” which took place at the Monterey Marriott, the Portola Hotel & Spa at Monterey Bay, and the Monterey Conference Center.

Beatrice Crofts Yorker, RN, MS, JD, FAAN, dean of health and human services at California State University, Los Angeles, who holds joint appointments in the schools of nursing and criminal justice, entertained attendees with tales from her research about nurses and other healthcare providers who have been convicted of killing patients. Some providers were convicted of lesser charges such as manslaughter, or never convicted at all, due to the “unwitnessed” nature of the crimes. Often perpetrators weren't uncovered until clusters of adverse outcomes were linked to the presence of a specific provider.

Directors of the Collaborative Alliance for Nursing Outcomes (CalNOC) also announced they anticipate enrolling their first international hospital, an academic medical center in Sweden, in their nursing indicators database project. ACNL and the American Nurses Association California started the project, in which hospitals from Western states, mostly California, submit monthly reports on unit-level nurse staffing, patient care workload, and key processes of care. The facilities also report on patient outcomes, including falls and hospital-acquired pressure ulcers. These data enable member hospitals to see how they vary in practice and outcomes and learn from some of the nation's best performers.

Additionally, CalNOC Principal Investigator and Research Team Coordinator Nancy Donaldson, RN, DNSc, Administrative Coordinator Patricia McFarland, RN, MS, and Mary E. Foley, RN, MS, associate director of the Center for Nursing Research & Innovation, announced a recent partnership with the Northwest Organization of Nurse Executives. The partnership will allow the project to include more hospitals from Oregon and Washington.

ACNL also presented its annual Recognition Awards and Scholarships:

- **Contributions to ACNL:** Barbara Burke, RN, MS, nursing project coordinator, Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Medical Center
- **Contributions as a Humanitarian:** Michele Fauquier, LVN, hospice nurse, Roze Room Hospice of the Valley, Sherman Oaks
- **Excellence in Leadership – North:** JoAnn Mette, RN, MSN, chief nursing officer, Kaiser Permanente – Greater Southern Alameda Area
- **Excellence in Leadership – Central:** Robert Toman, RN, CEN, clinical director, emergency services, Madera Community Hospital
- **Excellence in Leadership – South:** Suzette Cardin, RN, DNSc, NEA-BC, FAAN, assistant dean of student affairs, UCLA School of Nursing
- **Excellence in Leadership – San Diego:** Lily Pisegna, RNC, BSN, MBAH, director, Women's Health Center, Sharp Grossmont Hospital
- **Friend of Nursing:** Stephanie Leach, assistant secretary for policy and program development, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
- **Friend of Nursing:** California Masonic Foundation
- **Best Practice – Clinical Nursing:** Sandi Look, RN, BSN, manager, medical/surgical orthopedics department, Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance
- **Best Practice – Administration:** Donna Brackley, RN, MSN, MA, NEA-BC, senior vice president, patient care services, John Muir Medical Center, Concord Campus
- **Best Practice – Education:** Mary Wickman, RN, PhD, director, RN prelicensure program, CSU Fullerton
- **Best Practice – Innovation:** Jan Kidwell, RN, BSN, MBA, director, clinical financial management, Children's Hospital of Orange County
- **Best Practice – Nursing Research:** Chris Latham, RN, DNSc, MSN, professor, department of nursing and director of extramural funding, CSU Fullerton
- **Best Practice – Recruitment, Retention, Outreach:** Julie Vaupel-Phillips, RN, MS, CCRN, clinical director, pediatric intensive care and transport services, Children's Hospital of Orange County
- **Margretta Madden Styles, RN, EdD, FAAN Lifelong Learning Scholarship:** Sally Morgan, RN, MSN – University of San Diego, Doctor of Philosophy, Nursing
- **Barbara Brantley Memorial Scholarship:** Nika Federoff, RN, BSN – UCLA, MSN, Nursing

Administration

- **Research Scholarship:** Tanya Osborne-McKenzie, RN, BSN – University of Phoenix, MSN/MBA/HCM

- **ACNL Advanced Degree Scholarships:** Marianne Spurgeon, RN, BSN – CSU Dominguez Hills, MSN, Nurse Educator; Connie Chin, RN, BSN – CSU Fullerton, MSN, Leadership; Alecia Passow, RN, BSN – CSU Fullerton, MSN, Management and Leadership; Michelle Maureen Maruska, RN, BS – UCSF, MS, Nursing and Health Systems Leadership; Mary Reyes-Gonzales, RN, BSN, BSBA – UCLA School of Nursing, MS, Advanced Practice Nursing Administration; Ilana Gershon, BA – CSU Dominguez Hills, Master's Entry-Level Professional Nursing, Clinical Nurse Leader; Susan M. Scott, RN, BSN, CEN, CCHP, TNCC – CSU Northridge, Tseng College, Master of Public Administration.